



570 Olive Street  
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[www.thebridgeacademy.org](http://www.thebridgeacademy.org)

September 14, 2017

Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation  
28 West Market Street  
West Chester, PA 19382

Dear Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation,

Thank you for the generosity that your foundation has as it seeks to partner with organizations who match the heart of Zelinda LeBoutillier. The Bridge Academy and Community Center humbly requests the opportunity to be considered for a grant to aid in the work that is done in Coatesville. **The Bridge requests \$2,500 to fund two cooking and nutrition classes for our 2017-18 school year, which teaches at-risk students how to create nutritiously balanced meals.** The overall mission of the Bridge and the funding request matches the goals of the Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation.

The Bridge Academy and Community Center (BACC) is a nonprofit community center located directly in the heart of Coatesville. The Bridge's mission is to equip the youth and families with the tools necessary for academic achievement, life skills, creative expression, spiritual development and leadership. Since 2001, the Bridge has been serving the Coatesville community with academic, art, life skills, and spiritual development programs. It primarily serves low income families and at-risk youth. A vast majority of students come from single parent homes and have family members who are currently incarcerated. In 2016 over 315 women and children (0-18) attended different programs and events.

The Bridge Academy requests \$2500 to operate cooking and nutrition classes for the 2017-18 school year. Throughout the year, there are two different cooking classes: one for 6th-8th graders, and one for 3rd-5th graders. Each class runs 1.5 hours with 4-7 students and 2-3 adult teachers. During each class, students get an overview and description of the meal and pertaining nutritious facts. Students then prepare the recipes with the direction of the staff. Students are engaged in the preparing, cooking, plating, and cleaning up of each week's meal. Depending on the class, students serve the meal to their peers, or they eat the meal as a group. Teachers purposely choose recipes that are hearty and nutritious, and that can be made on their own at home. This program, and all of the programs at the Bridge are run at no cost to the students.

Students need to have access to programs such as these, especially during the afterschool hours. Studies show if adolescents are involved with activities during the afterschool time, they are far less likely to be involved with drugs, alcohol, criminal and sexual activities. Secondly, in a low income neighborhood, access to fruits and vegetables is often difficult. These classes help teach students how to properly prepare food, learn about different kinds of foods, and how to create a balanced, healthy meal.

The board and staff at the Bridge appreciates the opportunity to share what is going on at the Bridge and request a partnership that provides quality opportunities to students in Coatesville. If you have any questions, please call or email me: 484-459-3041, [jordan.crans@gmail.com](mailto:jordan.crans@gmail.com). I would love to share more about the Bridge.

Sincerely,

Jordan Crans  
Executive Director